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TOWN OF ACTON
472 Main Street
Acton, Massachusetts, 01720
Telephone (978) 264-9608
Fax (978) 264-9630

Cathy Fochtman
Recreation Director

DATE: February 22, 2007
TO: Don Johnson
FROM: Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director
RE: Support of Recreation Department Grant Application for NARA
Amphitheatre Sound and Lighting

I respectfully request that the Board of Selectmen consider endorsing the Recreation Department's application for a Massachusetts Cultural Council Facilities Fund Grant by submitting a signed letter of support (see attached). The grant program is a new initiative approved by the Massachusetts Legislature in July 2006 that appropriates \$13 million to support the sound planning and development of cultural facilities in Massachusetts. We submitted a Letter of Intent for a Capital Grant in the amount of \$14,000 on February 1, 2007. The complete grant application is due by March 15, 2007. The Capital Grant provides a 1:1 match of funds. If we successfully obtain a grant, the Recreation Department will raise \$14,000 within 24 months to fully fund the \$28,000 purchase and installation of sound and lighting equipment for the NARA amphitheatre. We are basing the cost on a quote obtained by Concert Sound and Light of Acton. Please refer to the attached Letter of Intent for details regarding the need for a NARA amphitheatre sound and lighting system.

Maura Haberman and I attended an ARC of Innovation/495 MetroWest Corridor Partnership sponsored information session on Tuesday, January 30 in Worcester about the Cultural Facilities Fund. We confirmed that the Fund provides financing for the purchase of major equipment or integrated systems, including sound and lighting systems.

The Town of Acton has made an investment in bringing quality entertainment to our region of metrowest Boston with our Summer Concert series. Last year, we featured ticketed concerts whose lineup included Livingston Taylor, Pink Voyd, The Drifters and KISS 108 Concert featuring the Jonas Brothers and High School Musical favorite Corbin Bleu from the Disney Channel. Vento Chiaro Woodwind Quartet, Second Story Band, Help Wanted Band and the Lois Greco Band provided entertainment at concert events that were offered free to the public. NARA Park and Amphitheater provides a venue that has accommodated up to 14,000 attendees at our popular Fourth of July event, and wonderful opportunities to see classic favorites like The Drifters up close and personally. With the increase of NARA concerts, special events and a new theatre group, the addition of lighting and sound equipment will provide a better venue and expand on entertainment and program options. Currently, we need to hire lighting and sound equipment including personnel, at great expense. Just a few of the major benefits provided by this grant:

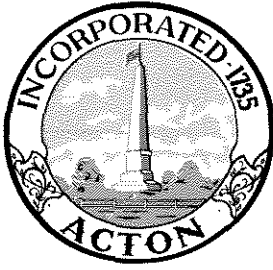
- Fiscal savings
- Enhanced event and program options
- Better visual and auditory viewing for patrons

- Attract more patrons to concerts and events
- Will allow for a better rental facility, increasing revenue

This is not only an excellent opportunity to obtain much needed equipment for NARA; we see great potential for utilizing this Fund for future cultural development in Acton, such as the repair, rehabilitation or renovation of existing facilities at Morrison Farm. Details regarding this Fund may be found in the following document:

<http://www.massculturalcouncil.org/facilities/facilitiesapp.pdf>

Thank you for considering the endorsement of this important project.



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Recreation Department
Cathy Fochtman, Director

February 1, 2007

Email to: Rebecca.polan@state.ma.us

Dear Massachusetts Cultural Council,

The Town of Acton Recreation Department is pleased to announce their intention to apply for a Massachusetts Cultural Council Facilities Fund Grant.

Grant category: **Capital Grant**
Anticipated grant amount: **\$14,000**

Applicant Organization Information:

Town of Acton
472 Main Street
Acton, MA 01720
978-264-9608 ext. 0
978-264-9630 fax
www.acton-ma.gov

Tax Exemption Number/EIN: **046-001-062**

Organization Contact Information:
Cathy Fochtman
Recreation Director
cfochtman@acton-ma.gov

The Project Summary is attached.

Sincerely,

Cathy Fochtman
Recreation Director

Massachusetts Cultural Council Facilities Fund: Capital Grant for NARA Park, Acton

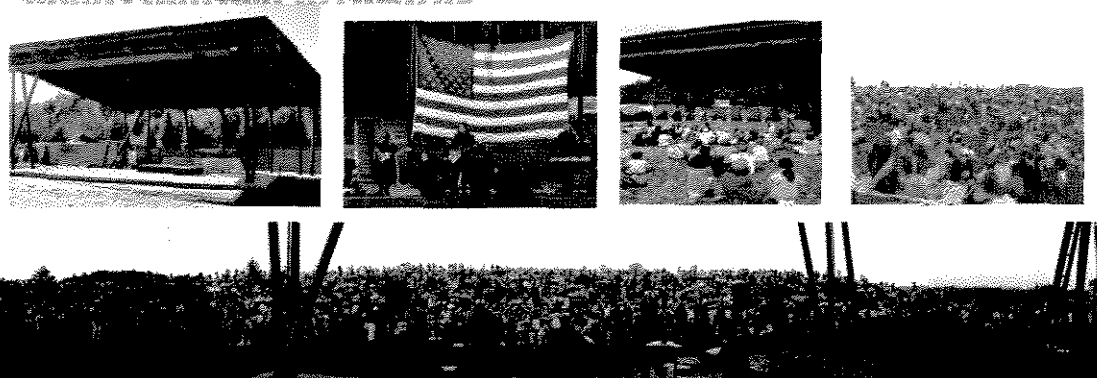
Project Summary

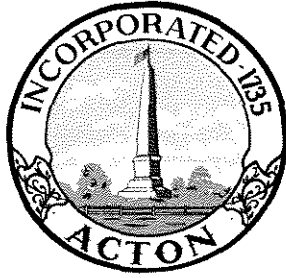
Acton Recreation Department oversees events and programs at the 40-acre North Acton Recreation Area (NARA), featuring an outdoor amphitheater. NARA Park construction was completed in 1999. Initial construction funding did not include sound and lighting for the amphitheatre. It is the hub for many cultural events held in the Boston Metrowest area with a seating capacity of 3,000+. The Recreation Department has run a summer concert series since 2000. As we have grown and more events are utilizing the venue, we find lighting and sound equipment to be a necessity to continue to grow and attract audiences from all over Massachusetts and New Hampshire. At the present time, performers must provide their own lighting and sound or we have to rent equipment and hire personnel, which limits the range of performers that we can feature.

With the advent of Recreation's new program Teen Repertory Theater, the NARA amphitheatre will be utilized to stage theater performances in the summer months. Because of the high level of interest in Acton for community theater, and the success of our program, lighting and sound is critical to achieve success in this venue.

Our goal is to expand usage of the amphitheatre with sound and lighting, so that we may accommodate community and professional theatre in addition to musical groups.

NARA PARK AMPHITHEATRE





TOWN OF ACTON
472 Main Street
Acton, Massachusetts, 01720
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Board of Selectmen

March 12, 2007

Massachusetts Cultural Council and MassDevelopment,

We are writing to endorse the North Acton Recreation Area (NARA) Sound and Lighting project, a Massachusetts Cultural Council Facilities Fund candidate for a \$14,000 Capital Grant. NARA Park is an important community resource for Acton residents as well as a regional destination, due to our investment in cultural concerts and events staged at our outdoor Amphitheater. The Town of Acton has a need for a sound and lighting system to expand our ability to support cultural events, including community and professional theater.

The Acton Recreation Department recently was awarded a grant in the amount of \$1,000 from the Acton-Boxborough Cultural Council to fund their new Teen Repertory Theater program. The recent January performances of the winter musical, "Bye, Bye, Birdie" were well received and attended by the community. These performances were free to the public and invitations and special accommodations were made for senior citizens from the Inn at Robbins Brook and patrons of the Acton Senior Center to attend. The 2007 summer program will feature performances of the musicals, "Treasure Island, A Musical Adventure" and "Once On This Island" at the NARA Amphitheater.

The Town of Acton has made an investment in bringing quality entertainment to our region of metrowest Boston with our Summer Concert series. Last year, the Recreation Department featured ticketed concerts whose lineup included Livingston Taylor, Pink Voyd, The Drifters and KISS 108 Concert featuring the Jonas Brothers and High School Musical favorite Corbin Bleu from the Disney Channel. Vento Chiaro Woodwind Quartet, Second Story Band, Help Wanted Band and the Lois Greco Band provided entertainment at concert events that were offered free to the public. NARA Park and Amphitheater provides a venue that has accommodated up to 14,000 attendees at our popular Fourth of July event, and wonderful opportunities to see classic favorites like The Drifters up close and personally. With the increase of NARA concerts, special events and a new theatre group, the addition of lighting and sound equipment will provide a better venue and expand on entertainment and program options. Currently, we need to hire lighting and sound equipment including personnel, at great expense. Just a few of the major benefits provided by this grant:

- Fiscal savings
- Enhanced event and program options
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Awareness and use of NARA Park as a cultural and recreational destination continues to expand, as the nearby Bruce Freeman Rail Trail approaches construction, linking the towns of Lowell, Westford, Chelmsford, Concord, Sudbury and Framingham. Sound and lighting equipment will benefit the community as Acton Recreation continues to offer a variety of cultural opportunities at NARA to residents and tourists. The Town of Acton looks forward to a productive association with MassDevelopment and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Town of Acton Board of Selectmen,

Walter M. Foster, Chairman

Peter K. Ashton

F. Doré Hunter

Andrew Magee

Lauren Rosenzweig